

DAYTON'S BLUFF BRANCH LIBRARY

645 E. Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

At a Glance: 2006

Built-Remodeled	2004
Square Ft	6,734
Hours/week*	52.5
Days/open/week	Six
Materials Budget	\$62,882
Collection Size	36,760
Books:	
Adult	9,425
Juvenile	18,001
Total Circulation	157,961
Adult	78,825 (50%)
Juvenile	79,136 (50%)
Circulation/FTE	26,773
Total Information	14,352
Information/Ref FTE	3,500
In-House Materials Use	32,292
FTEs Public Service*	5.9
Gate Count	170,225

Computer Workstations (Public) 18: Internet/ Word processor: 6, Catalog workstations: 4, Children's workstation: 1, Homework Center workstations: 6, Jobview: 1

Lounge chairs: 10; Study tables: 11 with 26 chairs; Study carrels: 0

*Information on hours and staff reflect system-wide changes implemented in November 2006

SERVICE PROFILE:

The Dayton's Bluff Branch Library opened in May 2004 in a beautiful new facility shared with the Metropolitan State University Library.

The neighborhoods served are primarily the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood on the near East Side, the Railroad Island neighborhood on the opposite side of Swede Hollow Park, and parts of downtown St. Paul. Additionally, the library serves patrons from across the Twin Cities area who work or take classes at Metropolitan State University.

The Dayton's Bluff neighborhood had a population of 17,758 in the 2000 census. The neighborhood has struggled with complex issues of aging, economic divestment, and cultural change, but has many active community organizations and a beautiful location overlooking downtown St. Paul and the river basin. Some key points:

- The neighborhood is very diverse. From the 2000 census, whites make up 52% of the

population; Asians, 19%; Blacks, 12%; Latinos, 11%; American Indians, 2%; and 4% were multi-racial

- 28% of Dayton's Bluff residents speak a language other than English at home
- 19% of residents are foreign-born
- 76% of public schoolchildren are children of color
- 79% qualified for free or reduced-price school lunch

The neighborhood surrounding Dayton's Bluff Library is a popular place for new immigrants to settle. Our customers include the newest Hmong immigrants, Karen refugees from Burma, and many Latino immigrants. Spanish and Hmong material circulates well.

With Metropolitan State University offering community members the opportunity to use its facilities, the Dayton's Bluff branch can focus on serving youth and families. It is the first branch with a purpose-built homework center. The branch's collection development policy aims for about 70% juvenile and teen material.

A Bush grant was jointly awarded to Metropolitan State University and SPPL, part of which funds the employment of a full-time Library Community Outreach Coordinator. Thanks in part to her efforts, the branch has collaborated with local schools, Chicanos y Latinos en Servicio (CLUES), the American Indian Family Center, and many of Metropolitan State's own outreach programs. Our two institutions are working together to make the joint facility a hub for the neighborhood. In just a short space of time, area residents have come to rely on us for their information and recreation needs.